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“Building an Access Bridge in Technology and Telecommunications”

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation, CC Dkt. 98-67*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 30, 2002, Mark Seeger and Karen Peltz Strauss of Communications Services for the Deaf (CSD) met with Margaret Egler, Thomas Chandler, Cheryl King, Erica Myers, and Greg Hlibok of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In addition, parties present by phone hook-up were Ben Soukup and John Archer of CSD, Maripat Brennan of the National Exchange Carriers Commission, and Janet Sievert of CGB. Also in attendance were Paul Ludwick and Mike Fingerhut of Sprint, who were present to discuss an unrelated matter.

CSD presented the attached overview of its Paging Answering Services (PAS). PAS enables individuals who use pagers to send messages, via CSD, to individuals or businesses that receive those messages by phone. After an individual sends a page to a CSD operator, that operator sends the message on to the destination party via voice, relay, or electronic mail. PAS is a fee for service program; *i.e.*, PAS customers pay for this service. The costs associated with handling PAS are not submitted for reimbursement to a state or interstate telecommunications relay fund.

CSD explained that it presently has ten operators handling PAS calls. One of these operators is deaf and performs her PAS job responsibilities with the partial assistance of video relay services. At issue is whether CSD may collect reimbursement for the video relay minutes used to enable this employee to fulfill her job functions. CSD

indicated that it would be submitting a written request for clarification of this issue.

Sincerely,

/s/

Karen Peltz Strauss
Senior Consultant

* The matter at issue is not yet part of a separate FCC proceeding. However, because reimbursement of video relay services is addressed in the Commission's Improved Services Order under CC Docket 98-67, we are submitting this *ex parte* letter for inclusion in that docket.